

SENATE No. 219

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing a study of starting times and schedules

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cynthia Stone Creem	First Middlesex and Norfolk
Thomas M. McGee	Third Essex and Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00308 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT AUTHORIZING A STUDY OF STARTING TIMES AND SCHEDULES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of
2 education is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a comprehensive study relative to the affect which
3 high school starting times have on the academic performance of students. Said study shall include, but
4 not be limited to, a survey of high school starting times and the duration of high school academic hours
5 throughout the commonwealth, and shall make findings relative to the affect which high school starting
6 times have on student academic performance. Provided further, that such study shall make
7 recommendations relative to whether high school starting times should be scheduled later in the morning,
8 and how school districts can adapt school day starting times to enhance student education. Said study
9 shall also review and make recommendations relative to other school day scheduling issues which affect
10 high school starting times. Said department, in the conduct of said study shall examine relevant scientific
11 studies and academic research, and shall request comment and suggestions from students, teachers, and
12 education policy makers, provided further, that said department shall conduct no less than two public
13 hearings to ensure public input and comment. A copy of said study shall be filed with the senate and

14 house clerks and the senate and house chairmen of the Joint Committee on Education not later than six
15 months after the enactment of this act.